

October 16, 2004

Dear FCC,

I am appalled and angry that Sinclair Broadcasting is being allowed to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. At the very least they should be airing a pro-Kerry documentary that targets the same audience and has the same airtime or not showing either. In an election that is already tight and polarizing our country, we don't need this. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. How will this fairly serve the public's interest? My interest? But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tammy Weide